March, 1998. The projects indicated at Serial No. 4 & 5 above are yet to achieve financial closure and commence construction activities.

In the case of the remaining two projects on December 22, 1999, Government of India approved extension of counter guarantee, through the revised procedure, for the 500 MW Ib Valley Thermal Power Project in Orissa of M/s. AES Ib Valley Corporation and the 1013.2 MW Mangalore Thermal Power Project in Karnataka of M/s. Mangalore Power Company Ltd. The draft counter guarantee and tripartite agreement documents in respect of these two projects have been forwarded to the respective State Governments for comments/necessary action. Further action for extending counter guarantee for these two projects will be taken after necessary action is taken by the concerned State Governments for adherence to the terms and conditions for extension of the counter guarantee of the Government of India. The State Governments of Orissa and Karnataka have suggested several changes in the conditions for the counter guarantee. These have been discussed with them and detailed proposals in this regard are awaited from the State Governments.

Closures of Rajghat Power Station

1151. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajghat Power Station and one unit of Badarpur Thermal Power Station has been closed during the current summer;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these will resume their normal functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Out of the two units (67.5 MW each) of Rajghat Power Station, Unit No. 1 was closed for scheduled overhauling with effect from 19.3.2001. The unit started generation on 27.5.2001 and was stabilized on 14.6.2001. Unit No. 2 developed some technical fault on 19.5.2001, which was

rectified and synchronized on 21.6.2001. This unit has been taken for overhauling now and is expected to resume operation by the 3rd week of September, 2001.

In the case of Badarpur Thermal Power Station, Unit No. 4 (210 MW) was closed due to annual overhauling, for better availability and sustainability of generation, *w.e.f.* 29.3.2001 to 26.4.2001. The unit resumed normal functioning *w.e.f.* 26.4.2001.

U.P. Government's agreement to buy Power from Uttaranchal at cheap rates

†1152. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh had an agreement with newly created State of Uttaranchal for buying power at 0.37 paise per unit and now whether it is trying to buy power at 0.40 paise per unit in future;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Public Sector Undertaking such as NTPC provides power at Rs. 2.40 per unit at inter State level; and

(c) whether Government propose to intervene to ensure that such treatment is not meted out by Uttar Pradesh to a State which is economically weak and to establish a just and equal treatment between the interests of Uttaranchal and requirements of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Minister Energy, Government of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) and Minister Energy, Government of Uttaranchal met on 13.3.2001. In the meeting it was *inter-alia* decided to set up a Committee comprising of Secretary (Energy), Government of Uttar Pradesh, Secretary (Energy), Government of Uttaranchal, Chairman & Managing Director, U.P. Power Corporation Limited, Chairman & Managing Director, U.P. Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited and one technical representative as may be

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.